

FIRST MSW FAMILY ENGAGEMENT INTERN GRADUATES



The Adult System of Care (ASOC) family celebrated the upcoming graduation and advancement with our four MSW interns on May 8, 2013 through the Office of Family Engagement. During this past academic year, MSW interns from Cal State Long Beach, Cal State LA and Azusa Pacific served their internship hours working with families in a pilot program. These interns were able to provide support services to families whose loved one experiences mental illness. Each family is unique and often, when faced with the challenge of how to help manage mental illness in their family member, aren't able to manage the high level of resulting stress that hits the entire family system. The use of MSW interns provides valuable resiliency strategies for families, with time for listening, delivering direct support and offering linkage help to needed community resources.

This year, two of the interns were from Cal State L.A. Charisse "CC" Scott and Hera Patail came to our ASOC unit with lots of enthusiasm for helping families. They both were able to gain a broad overview of all of the LACDMH services, programs, and resources.

CC provided many families with support, networking and strategies to manage their caregiving burden and turn it into resiliency. She also developed a training program for future interns on how to help families navigate the mental health system.



Hera worked more intensely with the FSP and FCCS programs under Kalene Gilbert and Tiffany Liu, providing support to the programs intense cases.

The other two interns, current Medical Case Workers with LACDMH, had a community-based internship experience working with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) families, following families from CET (Cognitive Enhancement Therapy), doing field visits with families and macro projects.

Isidoro Gonzalez not only made an impact on the families he worked with but he also said the internship changed the way he will work with families in the future. From his experience with the NAMI Family 2 Family class, Isidoro plans to become a Family 2 Family facilitator for Spanish NAMI families.

Yuk-Mei “Natalie” Lam, as the only 1st year MSW intern in the group, developed multiple brochures, resource linkages, and provided individual and family group support to families whose consumers attended the CET program. Natalie not only followed up on family support telephone calls, but also navigated challenging cases providing support, intervention and follow up. We are lucky that she leaves us with her gift of a “Self Care” brochure which we can distribute to family members throughout LACDMH programs.



If you would like to have a MSW intern provide support to your program for the 2014-2015 academic year, we invite you to contact the Office of Family Engagement to assist your program to become more family friendly, more engaging to families and more capable of providing support to families of consumers with mental illness. We would love for your program to have an intern dedicated to family members. As the research indicates, a stronger family network can mean better treatment outcomes for consumers, and a bonus of resiliency for the whole family!



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